

Forgiving Yourself

Life radically changes when you find forgiveness. Most live life in a dreary maze, hoping for a new result to overtake them but seeing no need to change their life. Think about it — if you travel the same road every day, you will arrive at the same destination. Change never just comes to you; you must be *willing* to change! But when you hear of the Savior who died for you, when you see the price that He paid in your place, change begins to happen! Hearing of Jesus is hearing about forgiveness, real forgiveness. It sounds too good to be true, but Jesus' love and commitment towards you is too good! But it is true nonetheless! Finding Jesus is finding forgiveness, perhaps, for the first time. What do you **do** after you have found forgiveness? Well, it rocks your world! When the accusers of the woman caught in adultery brought her to Jesus, they all left, because of the guilt of their own lives. But the woman remained.

He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." John 8:10-11

She had a choice! What recourse did she have? She was forgiven!

Jesus asked the blind man in John 5:6, "Do you want to be made well?" He extended His forgiveness to the man and declared over him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

How about you? Once you have found forgiveness, what then? John 5:14 says:

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

Yes, life radically changes when you find forgiveness. It changes first how you view yourself. How can you go back? How can you continue on the old road? You can't! There is something new that awaits you! A new life, a new identity! For this newness to take hold in our life we must take the new road. This new journey begins first by finding forgiveness and then, secondly, by forgiving yourself! If God has forgiven you, why don't you forgive yourself as well? Forgiveness is not a one-time event that occurred on a lonely cross two thousand years ago. Forgiveness is a journey, an adventure that will overtake you all of the days of your life. It began with Christ on the cross. His cross places you on a new road. And it first affects how you view your own life. You are the forgiven!

- Randy Bach
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